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by Frederick Keppel; the *Harper's*, an article by Charles H. Caffin, on "William Strang, Painter and Etcher," who "is one of that group of Scotchmen who have done so much to refertilize British art"; and in the *Scribner's* is found the first of a series of essays by Kenyon Cox on "The Classic Spirit in Painting," which constitute the 1911 Scammon lectures at the Art Institute of Chicago. Mr. Cox writes with enthusiasm and conviction, and what he says opens new avenues of thought, and furnishes material for profitable discussion.

BOOK REVIEWS

EMPIRE FURNITURE, A Portfolio containing 60 heliotype plates, with an introduction and explanatory tables by Egon Hessling. Bruno Hessling and Co., New York, Publishers. Price \$20.00.

To those interested in styles of furniture this portfolio will prove of absorbing interest and to craftsmen and others engaged in the decorative arts it will also be found invaluable. The selections for illustration have been admirably made and an adequate conception is given of the style represented. The Empire style stood for a phase of society more properly than civilization which in all probability will not find repetition. It possesses a grace and elegance which will perpetually exert charm; at its best it was high if not the highest art expression, in its perversion it descended very low. The value of the present publication lies not merely in the beauty of the plates and excellent character of those pieces chosen for reproduction, but in the fact that in many instances enlarged details are given which will serve as working models and draw attention to the exquisite perfection of the workmanship as well as of the design of the period. It is exquisiteness of this order that much of the present-day product sadly lacks and for which nothing can completely compensate. The volume, which measures a little more than 12 by 16 inches, is uniform with "The Furniture of the French Renaissance" (collec-

tions in the Cluny Museum), "The Furniture of Louis XIV and Louis XV in the Louvre," etc., published under the same auspices.

THE STUDIO YEAR BOOK OF DECORATIVE ART, A Review of the Latest Developments in the Artistic Construction and Furnishing of the House in Certain European Countries. John Lane Company, London and New York, Publishers. Price \$3.00 net.

This book deals with the art of four nations, Great Britain, Germany, Austria, and Hungary. The first half of the volume is given over to Great Britain and the essay which prefaces this section in a measure comprehends the art of the other nations as well. Sharp comparison is made between the progress which is being made in Germany and Austria with the retrogression in craftsmanship remarked in England, the greater merit of the Government schools in these countries being ascribed as reason. Attention is frankly called to the lack of originality of design and to the prevalent blind following of traditions. On the other hand, however, note is made of the general improvement of taste and the predisposition for more harmonious furnishings. The book is chiefly made up of pictures, and though among the illustrations some good examples of decorative art are to be found it must be confessed that in the aggregate the display is by no means inspiring. Almost all the productions seem self-conscious and to lack that fundamental cause which alone justifies creation.

AN ADDRESS TO CHILDREN ON A CITY PLAN

On the 22d of February Mr. Charles D. Norton addressed a large audience of boys and girls in Orchestra Hall, Chicago, on "George Washington's Plan for the City of Washington," telling how the National Capital was originally laid out and making it a plea for the unselfish support of an ideal in civic development for Chicago. This address has since been published in pamphlet form and makes excellent reading. For the use of Junior Civic Leagues it would be serviceable.